

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Morgan Maynard, 5th generation Helenan. Please fund the Resource Facilitation Service for survivors of traumatic brain injury and their families.

My brother, Andy, was in a car accident on October 27, 2006. He received multiple injuries to his body and brain. Over the last three months, his bodily injuries have been repaired, but his brain has not and he remains in a semi-conscious condition at Benefis Skilled Nursing Home in Great Falls.

Andy is a single parent with two children. I have assumed the responsibility of filing for Medicaid and Social Security benefits, finding resources for Andy, as well as providing the support to his children.

Over the course of these last three months, I've been shuffled between seven different Medicaid workers, three separate Social Security offices and an endless supply of caseworkers, counselors, financial offices, mortgage companies, school personnel and insurance agents. I have over 300 separate documents from these encounters and spend countless hours on the phone leaving messages that are never returned, sending letters that are never acknowledged, and receiving conflicting information from each of them. I can't help but think if I were the one with the brain injury, I would have given up long ago.

I stumbled across the phone number to the Resource Facilitation Service by accident. I called and was immediately connected with a caring person on the other end. During our conversation, I was given the names of three different advocacy and financial assistance programs, as well as mailed an informational packet that I refer to on a daily basis. She promised to contact me again and again to be sure our needs are being met. It's the first positive encounter I'd had yet, and I felt we finally were receiving the support we desperately needed.

By providing the funding for the Resource Facilitation Service, others like me will receive the help to get through this ordeal...and with less suffering. Please support the thousands of Montanans impacted by brain injuries each year.

Thank you.

Morgan Maynard